



Residential Swimming Pool and Hot Tub Maintenance


Many residents in King County have swimming pools, spas, or hot tubs. Improper drainage or discharge of pool water to storm drains or ditches during maintenance activities can lead to nutrients, suspended solids, chlorine, abnormal pH, and other chemicals entering our streams, rivers, and lakes. Chemicals used in pool, spa, and hot tub maintenance can contaminate stormwater and surface water if they are not stored, used, and disposed of correctly.


MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods or practices are required when draining or maintaining your pool, spa, or hot tub.

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1 Dechlorinate pool, hot tub, and spa water if it is to be discharged to the ground. Neutralizing chemicals are available. Letting the pool, hot tub, or spa “sit” with no chemicals may reduce chlorine levels. State law allows discharges of pool water to the ground if the chlorine level is below 3 ppm (parts per million). The pool water must be drained to the ground in a manner so that it does not cross property lines or cause erosion problems. Never discharge pool water directly to storm drains or ditches.
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2 If pool or spa water cannot be dechlorinated, the water must be drained to the sanitary sewer or collected by a pool maintenance company for off-site disposal.
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3 Diatomaceous earth (commonly used as a filtering agent) and water from backflushing filter systems cannot be discharged to surface waters, storm drainage systems, septic systems, or the ground.
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4 Pool water that has been treated with copper based algaecides may not be discharged to the ground.

OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS



Hire a professional pool maintenance company to service your pool, hot tub or spa.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.